(d) whether the suggestions of the task force would be implemented in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) In pursuance to the announcement made in this regard in the Budget Speech for the year 2009-10, the Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Chairman, NABARD to look into the issue of a large number of farmers, who had taken loans from private money lenders, not being covered under the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS). The Task Force is to submit its report by 31 March, 2010.

Accounts of Indian citizens in Liechentenstein Bank

493. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 363 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st October, 2008 and to state:

(a) whether Government pursued with the German authorities the process of securing details of 'secret' accounts held by Indian citizens in Liechentenstein banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating action taken in pursuant thereof up-to-date;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the current status of the action envisaging disclosure by banks in Switzerland of deposits suspected to be comprising Black Money flowing from Indian depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The German tax authorities have provided to the Indian Government information available with them regarding accounts concerning Indian nationals with the LGT Bank of Liechtenstein. The information has been provided by the German authorities under the Article concerning exchange of information of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Germany read with the Protocol thereto. The disclosure of the same is governed by the confidentiality provision of the said Article of the DTAA.

The information, so obtained, was immediately forwarded to the concerned income-tax authorities for initiating necessary action. Assessments have been reopened under the Income-tax Act, 1961 in all these cases. In appropriate cases, assessments have also been reopened under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

(d) The first round of negotiation between India and Switzerland for revision of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement-was held at Berne from 10th November, 2009 to 12th November, 2009.

Mechanism to monitor the line of funds

†494. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the general public do not get the full benefit of funds being provided by the Central Government for the development of States and welfare of the masses under various schemes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has developed any mechanism to fix responsibility of Officers of the Departments concerned and to review and monitor the use of funds provided to States in the public interest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) Central Government provides funds for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central assistance for State Plans, with the objective of development of States and provision of benefits to the target groups under various schemes.

The concerned State Governments and Central Ministries review and monitor implementation of schemes for the development of States to ensure effective utilization of funds for the purposes for which these are provided. Relevant laws provide for independent audit of all expenditure of public money for utilization towards the intended purpose.

Commitment charges paid to financial agencies

495. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of commitment charges paid to different financial agencies like IMF, ADB and other countries for externally aided projects from whom India has taken loan for the last three years, year-wise, institution-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rs. 125 crores was paid in 2007-08 and Rs. 120 crores was paid in 2008-09 as commitment charges by our country; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind paying huge commitment charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The details of Commitment Charges paid to different financial agencies and other countries for externally aided projects during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07 to 2008-2009 is annexed.

(b) As per details available in Statement, during 2007-08 and 2008-09, a sum of Rs. 124.54 Crore and Rs. 117.37 Crore respectively was paid as Commitment Charges.

(c) Payment of commitment charges is an integral part of the general terms and conditions of loan from the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and some bilateral agencies. The commitment charge has to be paid as the entire loan amount is not disbursed in one instalment at the commencement of the project. Once the loan becomes effective, disbursement of funds are taken from the lender as per the implementation schedule of the project. Interest starts accruing as soon as disbursement takes place. Commitment charges, where levied, are usually a fraction of interest rate.